GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:947
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
EARLY INFORMATION ABOUT TSUNAMI .
Appadurai Shri M.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gowda Shri D.V. Sadananda;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar;Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan;Singh Shri Rakesh;Sujatha Smt. C.S.;Thomas Shri P.C.;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The exact time of the earthquake which hit Indonesia leading to tsunami on the coasts of India;

(b) whether Indian scientists or Government got information regarding this;

(c) if so, by what time;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether our Government or scientists apprehended the consequences of it;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there was negligence on the part of Government of India or its concerned departments/institutes to get the information and pass it on to public for precautionary measures; and

(h) if so, the officials and the departments responsible for it and the action taken against them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a): The exact time of the occurrence of the earthquake on 26.12.2004 is 0629 Hrs. IST.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Information about the occurrence of the earthquake was known by 0700 Hrs. IST.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): As the phenomena of Tsunami occurrence in the Indian Ocean is not frequent, the Government/scientists could not apprehend the consequences.

(f): Does not arise.

(g) & (h): No, Sir. The earthquake monitoring systems alone are not sufficient to provide prior information about the Tsunamis. As there is no specific Tsunami Warning System in place for the Indian Ocean region, prior information was not possible.